

subordinates as men—for they are men, not machines—and pay them properly, as at present you must have an undue amount of faith in the generosity and honesty of men.

It is a class of men who are unworthy of your notice or of your dollars, why don't you better them, for you and you alone can do it? You have only to put a bill through the House for the increase of the educational standard, and by which you will be better enabled to judge of their competency and of their worthiness of a few more of your dollars. Make education, instead of palpable, fearful ignorance, the standard by which a certificate of competency is to be obtained, and by so doing you will see a better class of men in your services, you will confer a benefit upon yourselves, upon society generally, and raise the mercantile marine to its proper position, for it has a position, as to use a hackneyed phrase:

"Where would England be without her ships?" As long as affairs remain as they are, your services will be filled by men of all kinds, none the less deserving perhaps, for the rapacious maw of a rapacious government must be filled, so fees will be taken and certificates granted to the most illiterate clod-hopper who presents himself for examination, provided he has had the exact number of figures and the answers to a stereotyped set of questions beaten into him.

Of ye Hong, one and all, whether ye have genius from the nurseries of Glasgow, or genius from the hills of Scotland as your heads, recollect that your ships, whether of this or that class, are worthy of higher remuneration. Poor Jack! poor heart, thou art credited with no better desires than thy rum, thy Poll, and thy tobacco, with no mind save of mind and thine owner, but they forget that thou art flesh, art human, and (terrible anomaly) art fashioned after the image of thy Maker, as also is thine owner.

It would be useless to say anything about the fluctuations of the dollar, for they have been too keenly watched and appreciated everyone, but recollect, ye shipowners, that when these paltry sums were fixed as a standard of wages, the dollar was worth four shillings, and now it is worth less than three, and recollect too, that although the dollar has depreciated in value the prices of the ordinary necessities of life have remained the same with few exceptions—and those have risen rather than depreciated.

I could go on enumerating instances of cause and effect, but I am afraid that I have already taken up too much of your valuable space and time, so permit me to offer you my sincerest thanks for the space you have already afforded me, and for listening so patiently to my exposition of this matter, and allow me to subscribe myself

Yours truly,

FIFTY-DOLLARS.

Hongkong, 7th May, 1888.

THE "ARDGAY" AND THE DOCK COMPANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH." When I arrived here I endeavored to make arrangements with the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company for floating the steamer Ardgay on shore near Cape Batangan, and they offered to deliver the vessel to the dock here for the sum of \$50,000, no care no pay. The underwriters on ship considered this sum too great and wired me to try and get a more moderate offer, and failing that, to sell the vessel as well as I could. I consequently sold her to the Hon. C. P. Chater for \$30,000.

I am now informed of very good authority that the Dock Company have offered to float the ship for him for \$50,000. Had they made me that offer I should probably have closed with it, but at last events I purchased the vessel and the floating could be done at that money I could have sold the ship at a better price. I don't think it is politic for the Dock Company to have one price for one person, another for a second. I am perfectly sure underwriters will not think so, and in future when any ship is disabled in these seas, if it is possible, she will be sent anywhere but to Hongkong for repairs. I may mention that Mr. Gillespie, the Secretary, has treated me perfectly openly throughout the whole transaction, but I don't think the directors have acted for the best in the future interests of the Dock Company.

GEORGE STUART.

Agent for Underwriters on steamer Ardgay.

Hongkong, 9th March, 1888.

OUR POST OFFICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH." DEAR SIR—Can you tell me why the Postmaster General advises the closing of the German mail at 3 p.m. today, and then allows the drop box to be closed at 3 minutes to three? The petty annoyances of this amiable official are becoming unbearable, and the sooner he is replaced, the better.

Yours faithfully,

SEMPER IDEM.

Hongkong, 9th March, 1888.

THE POST-MASTER GENERAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH." DEAR SIR—Our Post Master General has once more exhibited the public feeling of good disposition to promote the welfare of the youths of our community in general.

In the latest issue of the *Government Gazette* the rising youths of our community are invited to contest for the highest number of the twelve hundred marks in an examination to be held in the Government Office on Friday the 11th inst. for three Candidates to fill the post of clerkship in the General Post Office.

The salary offered is the enormous sum of \$20 a month for the first year and a half, and \$25 a month for each of the two years following the first term. The Candidates must be a fully provided with good testimonials, certificates of age, and robust health, and none need apply unless able to write a good hand. This is what Mr. Lister will call a boon to our youths; but I call it the first installment into the Colony of the well-known "*Tribunal de l'Inquisition*" because it is evident that Mr. Lister desires to make the poor fellows endure the bitterness of the situation, for they will be the only applicants to the front and they must submit to the unreasonable conditions.

The wealthy parents will not suffer the future of their sons to be confined to the position of letter-sorts only.

I am surprised that the Government and the unofficial members of the Legislative Council should allow Mr. Lister to have so much of his own way. I consider the conditions set forth for the Candidates almost ignominious, and disgraceful to a liberal Government.

Who will not say that Mr. Lister has not shown his disposition to create misery in the Colony?

Time will show this to all your readers.

Mr. Lister in publishing such conditions as—

"No candidate need apply who does not write a good hand," "Hand-writing 600 Marks," makes a fair demonstration of his stupidity, because if a candidate is to be the judge of his own hand, writing he will certainly believe he writes a good hand and will consequently be admitted to the full number of marks.

O interas hominum mentes! O bestia corda!

I am,

Yours truly,

OBSERVER.

Hongkong, 9th March, 1888.

SHANGHAI RACES.

OFF-DAY, SATURDAY, 5TH MAY, 1888. Favorable weather, a large attendance of spectators, course heavy and rather sticky, large fields and first class racing. Details:—

The FORMOSA CUP, value Tls. 100; presented; for all Griflins that have run at this Meeting and not won a Race; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, \$5; to go to the second pony. Three-quarters of a Mile.

Mr. Toeg's bl. Sutej, 11st. 7lb. Mr. Hutchings 1
Mr. J. D. Humphrey's dun Velocity, 10st. 12lb.
Mr. Umbria's gr. Badminton, 10st. 12lb.
Mr. Machado 3
Mr. Tell's dun Monte del Oro, 11st. 1lb.

Mr. Chouleur's ch. Froelich, 11st. 1lb.
Mr. Reynell 1
Mr. Tell's ro. Bernina, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Dallas 1

After a good race down the straight, Sutej won cleverly by two lengths; Badminton a bad third. Time 1 min. 42 secs.

The SUSEWIND CUP, value Tls. 100; presented; for all Ponies that have run at this Meeting and not been placed; winners on the fourth day excluded; weight for inches as per scale; Entrance, \$5; to go to the second Pony. One Mile and a Half.

Mr. Moray's gr. Millionaire, 11st. 1lb.
Mr. Reynell 1
Mr. Buxey's cr. Joker, 11st. 4lb. Mr. Machado 2
Mr. Rodney's b. Belvoir, 11st. 1lb.
Mr. Hart-Buck 3
Mr. Edmond's gr. Roulette, 10st. 12lb.
Mr. Kuegg 1
Mr. Inch's gr. Doris, 11st. 1lb.
Mr. Renney 1
Mr. Tell's gr. Mont Blanc, 11st. 1lb.

Mr. Dallas 1
Mr. Buxey's bl. Tycoon, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Cove 1
Mr. Gore-Booth's gr. Blizard, 11st. 1lb.
Mr. Callaway 1

Millionaire got rid of Joker in the last furlong and gained the victory by a couple of lengths; with Belvoir close up. Time 3 min. 4 1/2 secs.

The MAPOO'S RACE, for Ponies that have run at this Meeting; winners at this Meeting excluded; weight, 9st. 7lb.; entrance, \$5; once round; native riders in Racing Colours; the stakes to be handed to the riders as follows:—The Winner, 5/8ths; second rider, 2/8ths; third, 1/8th.

Mr. Ten Brock's gr. Wild Dash, 9st. 7lb. Horse 1
Mr. Min's b. Rustic, 9st. 6lb. Chifney 2
Mr. Sassoon's gr. Holyhock, 9st. 7lb. Piking 3
Mr. Balderston's gr. Oxfordshire, 9st. 13lb.

Mr. Chouleur's b. Tartarin, 9st. 7lb. Monkey 1
Mr. Sylva's b. Belgic, 9st. 7lb. Asun 1
Mr. King's gr. Marmaduke, 9st. 7lb. Mouse 1
Mr. Sassoon's dun Sandpiper, 9st. 14lb. Snipe 1
Mr. Rodney's b. Grantham, 9st. 7lb. Peter 1
Mr. J. D. Humphrey's bl. Viking, 9st. 6lb. Punch 1

Mr. Tell's b. Monte Rosa, 10st. 12lb. Worm 1
Mr. Sassa's gr. Wohlenmug, 9st. 8lb. Kailfo 1
Mr. Tell's b. Mönch, 9st. 12lb. Leitzo 1

Wild Dash was favorite and he won easily at the finish by three lengths from Rustic, Holyhock a capital third. Time 2 min. 5 1/2 secs.

The DOLORES CUP, value Tls. 100; presented; for all Griflins that have run at this Meeting and not won a Race; weight for inches as per scale; ponies placed in any race 5lbs extra; winners on the fourth day excluded; entrance, \$5; to go to the second Pony. One Mile and a Quarter.

Mr. Toeg's gr. Senegal, 11st. 1lb.
Mr. Hutchings 1
Mr. Tell's gr. Mont Brévent, 11st. 3lb.
Mr. Dallas 2
Mr. Carr's b. Dandy, 11st. 6lb. Mr. Hart-Buck 3
Mr. King's gr. Enchanter, 10st. 12lb.
Mr. Machado 3

Half a mile from the winning post Senegal was sent to the front, and although hard pressed in the straight by the Derby second, he won easily at last by four lengths. Time 3 min. 5 secs.

The MAPOO'S CHAMPION RACE, for China ponies, the property of members of the Shanghai Race Club; weight, 9st. 7lb.; entrance, \$5; one round; native riders in racing colours; the stakes to be handed to the riders as follows:—The Winner, 5/8ths; second rider, 2/8ths; third rider, 1/8th.

Mr. Triad's ch. Precursor, 9st. 8lb. Punch 1
Mr. Sassoon's cr. Bullion, 10st. 12lb. Snipe 2
Mr. Tell's gr. St. Gothard, 10st. 12lb. Worm 3
Mr. Buxey's cr. Joker, 9st. 7lb. Boots 1
Mr. Toeg's gr. Ganges, 9st. 7lb. Horse 1
Mr. Sassoon's gr. Salpeter, 9st. 7lb. Peking 1

Precursor made nearly all the running and eventually beat Bullion by several lengths, nothing else being near. Time 2 min. 5 1/2 secs.

OUR MACAO LETTER.

MACAO, May 7th. On Saturday last, the 5th instant, a despatch from the Minister for the Colonies was read before our Board of Treasury concerning the said Board for having granted an allowance to the Colonial Secretary in his capacity of Acting Governor of Macao, and enjoining him to refund to the Treasury all sums he has illegally received. The Crown Attorney was absent from the meeting, there being present only the Treasurer, who protested against the allowance, the Secretary and the Accountant.

Our religious Diocesan prelate is going to have a Te Deum solemnly sung at the Cathedral for the anniversary of the ratification of the Portuguese-Chinese Treaty, a fact which you acquainted your readers with fully 24 hours before it appeared in any of the Hongkong papers, and a few days before it was made public by the enterprising press-men (?) of this City. Considering that a Te Deum is still sung every year in commemoration of the disastrous typhoon of 1874, a fortiori there ought to be such demonstrations in celebration of the Treaty, the effects of which will not be less deleterious to this Colony than the never-to-be-forgotten torado.

The *Cerrito Matanzas* of the 4th inst. in a local headed "Exploration wanted" has the following:—We have all lately noticed a few gunboats belonging to the Chinese Customs anchored in various places opposite the city. On Saturday a gunboat and a steam launch were stationed opposite Typo; another gunboat in Tanque do Mainato (Bishop's Bay), and another at Cabrita Point. We cannot imagine that this means a blockade of our port, as we feel convinced our Acting Governor is gifted with sufficient dignity and energy to prevent such a disgrace. However, blockade or no blockade, it is evident that the authorities "want" to choose the anchorage which best suits them, and even granting the hypothesis that they have permission to do so, they ought not to continue anchored at such places, because our national dignity repudiates any idea of appearance of a blockade.

Through the Acting Governor's initiative a subscription has been started on behalf of the families who have suffered losses from the burning of the "Baque" Theatre at Opotio. Our extra-incident organ, the *Pos da Cruz*, says that the burning of the theatre given margin

to peculiar considerations; and it styles the event a heavenly punishment. The burning of the Ring Theatre at Vienna, of the Opera Comique at Paris, of the Nice and Exeter theatres are all attributed to heavenly intervention, and hence families are warned by the inspired rag not to frequent theatrical establishments. It is almost useless to say that the organ of our long-robed hierarchies does not mention the Churches that have been burnt down throughout the world, any more than it refers to the St. Paul's temple which was reduced to ruins in this city in the course of a few hours its ruins still standing heaven and earth out of countenance. It is wonderful how prone our rule clergymen are to attribute every event to the direct intervention of supernatural powers, when their own ignorance, hypocrisy and vulgarity would be the surest proofs that they are the very cast-offs of the supernatural powers that be!

A financial measure is soon to be set on foot to have our merchants classified and taxed on a new basis. Considering the precarious state of our Exchange all means are supposed to be justified by the laudible aim of refilling the coffers, to the undivided approbation of the Lisbon sharks who have during the past years shown an unlimited voraciousness in depleting our Treasury.

Miss Merilinde M. Fernandes, daughter of Mr. T. Fernandes, consul for Italy and Siam, was married yesterday, to Mr. Carlos P. d'Assumpcao, the Bishop officiating in pontificalibus. There was a ball at Mr. Fernandes' residence in the evening which was numerously attended. Our local *paparazzi* did not fail to put in an appearance.

Your morning contemporary's Macao reporter has concluded in his information respecting the new transport which left Lisbon for this port in March last. It is the *India*, not the *Africa*, that brings our relief.

PEKING.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

27th April, 1888. Mr. Reid of Chinan Fu has returned after spending a few months here trying to put through the missionary troubles at the Shantung provincial capital. Additional orders have been sent to the officials at Chinan Fu for settling the missionary difficulties, and Mr. Reid returns to see what further may be done. Minister Denby is acting, we believe, energetically in the matter.

Our wish and dust have at last given place to real St. Swinburn's weather. The rain in amount and heaviness is quite unprecedented for April, we are, however, glad to see it as vegetation will succeed in the end. The spring has been very backward—certainly a fortnight later than is usual—and our trees are still bare, although the willows are beginning to take on a green aspect.

Dr. Edkins read a paper at the last meeting of the Oriental Society on the history of the Chinese during the period between 300 B.C. and 200 A.D. The paper will be published in the Society's transactions. A discussion followed, in which Dr. Martin and Dudgeon and Messrs. Jordan and Hancock took part. Dr. Edkins covered the ground of Chinese history during five centuries. Poets began to write vigorously in the age of Mencius and in the period of the contending states, Chü-yuen and Sung-yü were the chief among them. Chü-yuen was a moral poet, dealing with the passions and with mythology, and had many qualities of a great poet. The Marquis d'Hervey de St. Denys in his elegant translation has underrated his powers. Sung-yü, pupil of Chü-yuen, was a landscape poet. He was stirred by the Yangtze gorges and other features of the picturesque world by him in the time of the Sung. The Han dynasty there was a long series of eminent poets. Sz-ma-liang-la described hunts. Chün-zi was alarmed, like Edgar Poe, by an ill-omened bird coming to his house and wrote a poem on it. A princess wrote a poem on her desolate life in Tartary, where she had been sent to be wife to the Usun king. Mei-cheng wrote a poem to show that the teaching of the sages, Confucius and others, was so salutary that on one occasion it cured a sick prince. The Pan family, father, son and daughter, all wrote a very curious poem on the flute, since the flute was the harp of the Han dynasty, there was a long series of eminent poets. Sz-ma-liang-la described hunts. Chün-zi was alarmed, like Edgar Poe, by an ill-omened bird coming to his house and wrote a poem on it. A princess wrote a poem on her desolate life in Tartary, where she had been sent to be wife to the Usun king. Mei-cheng wrote a poem to show that the teaching of the sages, Confucius and others, was so salutary that on one occasion it cured a sick prince. 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